

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-07 /098 W

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R 230908Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS IN WAKE OF SOVIET TREATY
NULLIFICATION

1. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR ALI HABIB TOLD POLOFF
APRIL 21 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH GOH HAVE
"MODERATELY WORSENERD" FOLLOWING CAIRO'S RENUNCIATION OF
FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH USSR. HE SAID HUNGARIAN-EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE PROGRESSIVELY DETERIORATED OVER PAST
YEAR AS GOH LAUNCHED ITS CAMPAIGN OF STRONG PERSONAL ATTACKS
AGAINST PRESIDENT SADAT FOLLOWING LATEST TROOP DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

2. HABIB RECENTLY CALLED ON DEPUTY FONMIN ROBERT GARAI TO
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PROTEST PRESS ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY

INFERENCES THAT SADAT HAS NO POPULAR SUPPORT AND IS AGENT OF FOREIGN POWER. GARAI, HE SAID, ATTEMPTED TO DIVORCE GOH POLICY OF "MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH EGYPT" FROM "FREE OPINIONS OF WORKING JOURNALISTS". GARAI REPEATEDLY STRESSED HOPE THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT PERMIT BILATERAL RELATIONS TO BE AFFECTED BY "RECENT EVENTS" AND POINTED TO RENEWAL OF EGYPTIAN-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT SCHEDULED FOR MAY AS EVIDENCE OF GOH'S GOOD INTENTIONS. HABIB REPLIED CAIRO HAS NO DESIRE TO SQUABBLE WITH HUNGARY, BUT CONSIDERED "OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED PRESS ARTICLES AS INTERFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS". HE ADDED POINTEDLY THAT GOH WOULD BE JUSTIFIABLY UPSET IF EGYPTIAN PRESS IMPLIED THAT FIRST SECRETARY KADAR WAS WORKING FOR FOREIGN POWER AGAINST INTERESTS OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLE.

3. HABIB TOLD POLOFF THAT HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS HUNGARIAN NEED TO FOLLOW "INSPIRATION FROM EAST" IN CONDUCTING ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. NEVERTHELESS, CAIRO WANTS GOH TO KNOW THAT GREATER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS IS INEVITABLE IF PUBLIC ATTACKS ON SADAT'S POLICIES CONTINUE. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO HARASSMENT OF EGYPTIANS BY AVH OR INCREASE IN GOH SURVEILLANCE IN LAST MONTH. HE CONFIDED THAT EGYPTIAN FOMIN IS CONSIDERING CARRYING OUT SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN EASTERN EUROPE AS RESULT OF "EVENTS OF PAST YEAR".

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GOH DOES WANT TO MAINTAIN REASONABLY ACTIVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH CAIRO AS PART OF ITS POLICY OF MAINTAINING FOOTHOLD IN ARAB WORLD, BUT IS COMPELLED TO PUBLICLY ATTACK SADAT AS PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF ITS COMMITMENT TO SOLIDARITY WITH USSR. GOH HAS SIMILAR PROBLEM IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINESE. HUNGARIAN PRESS APRIL 22 CONTINUED WITH ITS ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN LEADERS, PUBLISHING TASS ARTICLE QUOTING CRITICISM OF GAMAL ABDEL NASSER'S DAUGHTER OF OFFICIAL ATTACKS AGAINST HER FATHER BY SOME EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. ARTICLE UNFAVORABLY COMPARES PRESENT EGYPTIAN LEADERS WITH NASSER, "WHO STOOD UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRMLY AGAINST ALL MANEUVERS AND PLOTTING BY IMPERIALIST STATES".

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